

## The Laoshi and The Yiling Laozu

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# The Laoshi and The Yiling Laozu

by [chiyukimei](#)

## Summary

Burial Mounds era Lan Qiren and Wei Wuxian had time travelled.

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Lan Qiren narrowed his eyes. “You’ve heard of the Patriarch of Yiling before, boy?”

Wei Wuxian watched his former teacher with suspicion, “Laoshi, you’ve been there when the sun was shot?”

Lan Qiren nodded.

## Notes

I'm sorry if the characters seem out of character, I'm really not sure how it turned out, but I wrote it and here it is. :)

# Prologue

Burial Mounds had always been rumored as a living hell for people, especially for cultivators who went in here intending to cleanse the area.

It was always a haunted place until – well, until Wei Wuxian.

Rumors had it that Wei Wuxian had claimed the place as his and raised his ghost armies with the help of the ancient Wen techniques that escaped the Jins' supervision.

Things being like that, of course, Lan Qiren couldn't help but glance in the direction of Yiling.

He and Wangji was currently night-hunting near Yiling at his nephew's suggestion. It was a rare thing for Lan Qiren to night-hunt because of his duties in his sect, yet ever since Lan Xichen had taken off the title of the Sect Leader from his shoulders, he was faced with a surprising amount of spare time – it was something he didn't have since Wangji's birth. As a cultivator, he also needed to night-hunt regularly to keep up with the cultivation world too.

However, it was indeed strange for Wangji to choose this place for their hunt. To think now, his latest reports were all from the places that were near YiLing too.

Lan Qiren eyed his nephew with a considering gaze, "Wangji, is there a specific reason for us to come here?"

Wangji stopped for a moment that couldn't be considered noticeable.

He calmly spoke, "Cases around the area are highly interesting."

He added uncharacteristically after a moment of thinking, "Burial Mounds radiates lots of resentful energy. It's dangerous for local people."

Lan Qiren nodded, he trusted his dear nephew to never disappoint him. Wangji has always been a bright, good, and filial child. Taking too much pride in your child was forbidden by their sect rules, but Lan QiRen never took pride in him, did he? Wangji was just like that.

And Lan Qiren was the one who raised him.

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Wangji seemed restless after the hunt. It was like he couldn't find what he was searching for, yet Lan Qiren couldn't name what his nephew could be looking for.

His nephew was often seen around Yiling, especially Burial Mounds. People said that he was there to purify the Yiling Laozu.

Wei Wuxian.

Wangji had searched for him when he was lost for three months too, hadn't he? Although Wei Ying had helped Wangji in the Xuanwu Cave, he was changed after the war. He had become an unorthodox cultivator who knew no shame. Jiang Wanyin, Wei Wuxian's shidi himself had said that back then. Lan Xichen had indeed confirmed that Wei Ying's heart was changed too. Was it possible that Wangji still thought good of this heretic?

They rested in the inn that night.

In the morning, he and Wangji were to return. Wangji turned to Lan Qiren, his eyes were like the times he wished for something but couldn't exactly tell what. Needless to say, Lan Qiren always fell for them.

Wangji spoke, "Uncle, may I stay in Yiling for longer?"

Lan QiRen looked consideringly at his nephew. Surely Wangji could've had no relation to Wei Wuxian. He had always despised him, hadn't he?

Lan Qiren, "Wangji, you may stay if..."

Just when he was about to finish, he saw the tail of a red ribbon. His eyes followed the line and there stood Wei Wuxian speaking with a street vendor! He looked like he was joking. Next to him was probably the famous Ghost General.

Ghost General?!

Wangji followed his uncle's gaze. Surprised, he gazed at Wei Wuxian too.

Wei Wuxian didn't notice their gazes, he was across the crowd after all and was engrossed in a heavy talk, how could he? He put one hand on the table the vendor sold his crops on and sent a sharp gaze at him. It was it, the vendor was doomed. Whatever problem Wei Wuxian had with this poor man, it was to be solved with violence right then.

Wei Wuxian's voice echoed through the busy street.

"What?! How could it be that your potatoes are that pricey? They don't look good at all, they have sprouts everywhere!"

*What?!*

Street vendor exasperatedly shouted, "Young Master, this is my last price! Take it or leave it!"

Wei Wuxian tilted his head, "I'll take it..."

"With another discount!" He clashed his hand once more at the table.

The vendor puffed. "Hmphm. Deal! I don't want to see you ever again! You're evil, evil! I have mouths to feed too..."

Then Wei Wuxian happily exclaimed and winked at the man, “Hahah, alright, see you next week then! Make sure that your beans are good! Or else they will kill me when I return home!”

Street Vendor smiled at him too, “Take care of yourself, Young Master. Bring your little back next time.”

Wei Wuxian snickered, “Of course I will!”

The Yiling Patriarch and the Ghost General quickly walked away while carrying potato sacks in their arms. Ghost General placed the sacks on a wheeled cart and then, he picked up the Yiling Patriarch and placed him on top of the potato sacks.

They rode away against the sun.

Lan Qiren was stunned. He wondered for a moment, just how many times Wangji had strolled in Yiling to run into Wei Wuxian? Seeing his weirdly longing looks towards the man, it couldn't be more than one time that he met him.

Lan Qiren gazed at Wangji again, “Wangji, let us go.”

His nephew nodded at him and they flew back to Cloud Recesses. This matter could stand aside for a while.

Little one? Surely there couldn't be any children on that cursed mountain, right?

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Lan Qiren easily forgot the matter of Wei Wuxian, putting it on a dusty shelf on the back of his subconscious. Even if he didn't forget it himself, his sect duties didn't let him think otherwise either. His deepest thoughts were thus stored to roam at midnight.

The elder entered his chambers. There was a strange-looking incense burner in his one hand. It was nothing like the incense burners that were usually found in Cloud Recesses. In its middle were engraved butterflies. He scanned his memory to find anything related to butterflies in GusuLan's antique teachings, yet there were none. This odd artifact must have come from an outsider GusuLan member, a rogue cultivator who had a sect but preferred to roam alone, *Lan Chou*.

After carefully inspecting and finding nothing odd apart from its delicate shape, Lan Qiren burnt incense before going to sleep. Just like every other night since his trip to Yiling, his mind betrayed Lan Qiren and he quickly started to dream about Wei Wuxian and what could he be hiding in Burial Mounds, were there children? Elders? Demonic beasts and vicious corpses? Wangji stood next to Wei Wuxian, he wore bloodied robes.

Fluttering his eyelashes, he opened his eyes with dread. In front of him were a dozen students all looking at his eye. Wei Wuxian was standing up, Lan Qiren knew this moment. He immediately told his usual line and waited for the dream to get over.

*“Then, let me ask you again! How can you guarantee that this resentful energy is for you to use and will not harm other people?”*

The impossible happened then.

“Easy. You focus on the souls’ energy just like spiritual cultivation and use quick empathy to control them. Thus you make a deal with the dead, you give your respects and they accept to help. Only people with strong will can withstand the powers of this kind of empathy and only they can wield their powers. The ghostly path is a special and delicate way that includes setting the spirits free. It doesn’t harm neither the temperament nor the body.”

Lan Qiren’s eyes got widened, he never saw this kind of a dream. How could he? He didn’t know how to control resentful energy!

Then this... this... was this real?!

Was all of it before now, the Sunshot Campaign, the Yiling Patriarch, a long dream? Or was he dreaming now? A butterfly... Was he a man who was dreaming that he was a butterfly, or was he a butterfly who was dreaming that it was a man?

Someone else was dreaming beside him apparently.

*Dreams don’t work like that*, thought Lan Qiren. He took a deep breath and calmly spoke this time, “Wei Ying, you shall stay, after class.”

## Chapter 2

Wei Wuxian felt the anxiousness creep over his body. This reality which he was suddenly thrown at was not a dream. Old Man Lan would never ask him calmly to stay after class after everything Wei Wuxian told him, even in his dreams! Using resentful energy was of course not as easy as he had told in class, but the essence was there.

The situation being like that, what was Wei Wuxian supposed to do? Everyone was left behind him now. All those months he spent with the Wen Remnants, were now gone. He was a stranger to Wen Ning, Wen Qing, and A-Yuan – hell A-Yuan probably wasn't even alive yet! What would happen if something went different in this timeline and A-Yuan was never born?

He smiled at Jiang Cheng's 'you'll be dead and I won't attend your funeral' and Nie Huaisang's 'good luck Wei-xiong, you're a legend for us all!' faces.

Gods, he was surrounded by children! Wei Wuxian was stuck in a time when all of his acquaintances were at least five years younger than him.

His chest heaved up and down, trying not to think about the consequences of his apparent time travel, he walked in front of Lan Qiren's desk. No one was in the room aside from them.

Lan Qiren narrowed his eyes. "You've heard of the Patriarch of Yiling before, boy?"

Wei Wuxian watched his former teacher with suspicion, "Laoshi, you've been there when the sun was shot?"

Lan Qiren nodded. Wei Wuxian let his thoughts take him over. "I was just in my cave last night! Are we the only ones who returned? And why is it only the two of us?"

Lan Qiren sighed. *Of all those people who could come back with him, why was it Cangse Sanren's son?*

"Stay still. I want to return as much as you do. As for why it is the two of us, I do not know."

It could not be the because of the incense burner, could it?

Wei Wuxian wasn't convinced. "Laoshi, I wasn't dealing with strange things, I wasn't even cultivating the day before! Could it be that it is because of something you did?"

Lan Qiren felt the anger rise through him, "Certainly not!"

Wei Wuxian waved his hands, "Alright, alright, let's wait for a few days then. If nothing changes we can discuss what we want to do about this whole situation." He raised to leave.

Lan Qiren, "Wait."

Wei Wuxian, "What?"

Lan Qiren, “I have to punish you because of your actions. Don’t go around spouting nonsense about resentful energy!”

Wei Wuxian, “Laoshi, does that mean I’m to copy rules, again?! I already know all of them!...” After a moment of silence, Wei Wuxian rose excitedly,

“...Wait...then does that also mean... that someone will supervise me?”

Lan Qiren, “Of course, you don’t expect me to trust you, do you? Maybe I can set you straight while we’re here. I’m going to warn Wangji about you and he will not let you go away with anything.”

Wei Wuxian beamed at these words, “No, Laoshi! Not Lan Wangji, he is too strict! I would be dead until our return!”

Lan Qiren gritted his teeth, “You’re dismissed.”

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Wei Wuxian spent these few days fooling around and waving hands at Lan Wangji. He regarded this stay as some sort of a vacation. He was surrounded with teenagers who did teenager things, yes; and Wei Wuxian had done these already, yes. But that didn’t mean he couldn’t do the things he hasn’t done when he was in Cloud Recesses.

For example, he could actually befriend Lan Wangji this time! Lan Wangji’s fifteen-year-old face was so pure and cute and he didn’t know Wei Wuxian was a demonic cultivator either! Wei Wuxian had his core too, he could fly on his sword as much as he wished until he returned to his world.

There was only this little problem... Wei Wuxian of this time had already met Lan Wangji which meant he’d already bribed him! Wei Wuxian’s flirtatious and teasing nature didn’t help him either. No matter what Wei Wuxian did, Lan Wangji saw him as a menace. How sad! He really wanted to be friends with him this time around.

He also wanted to squeeze those chubby cheeks!

Three days after their arrival, Wei Wuxian silently watched Lan Wangji from the corner he stood. Watching the other closely, naturally, he also noticed the other eyes that watched him afar. There was this one disciple who always stared intensely at the Second Young Master Lan. He looked at him when he thought no one was watching, but oh dear boy, Wei Wuxian was following his every move. What did this creepy person want from Lan Zhan? Why did he look at him with such intense resentment?

He huffed. He wanted to make it known that Wei Wuxian would protect this fifteen-year-old cutest person alive from unwanted gazes! He gazed intensely at the disciple and scared him away. With a smug face, he turned back only to find Grandmaster looking in the direction the disciple once stood. He bowed, “Teacher.”

Lan Qiren, “What were you doing?”



Wei Wuxian shrugged his shoulders and narrowed his gaze, “This one disciple never stopped looking at Lan Zhan! I wonder why intensely he looks at him. Is it because of Lan Zhan’s cold demeanor he thinks Second Young Master Lan is an arrogant young master? Hmph!”

Lan Qiren was surprised to see Wei Wuxian that protective of his nephew. “You’ve noticed Su She’s starings too?”

Wei Wuxian sighed, “How could I not? I swear if this boy keeps this behavior I’m gonna bully him.”

Lan Qiren agreed. It was good to know that someone else had noticed it too. He gave a direction with his head, “Wei Ying, follow me.”

Wei Wuxian followed Lan Qiren to the elder’s now empty class. Lan Qiren spoke after a long embarrassing silence, “...I believe that the reason we’re here could be attributed to an incense burner I’ve found in Cloud Recesses.”

Wei Wuxian’s eyes widened, “An incense burner?”

Lan Qiren nodded, “I’ve looked for it everywhere since our return. However, I couldn’t find it in its old place. It seems like we are to stay here longer.”

Wei Wuxian, “I see, I see. Didn’t you tell that it was certainly not you Laoshi? Hahah don’t look at me like that!...”

Lan Qiren clenched his fists, “What are you planning to do now?”

Wei Wuxian, “Eh? If we’re not returning then we have to change things, for example: a bloody war, don’t you think?”

Lan Qiren worriedly looked at him, “Will you use demonic cultivation for that?”

Surprised, Wei Wuxian answered, “What do you mean Laoshi?”

Lan Qiren gave in without thinking, “The things you said in class, were they true?”

Wei Wuxian closed his eyes, “Every single word of them.”

Lan Qiren, “You’re still not to use demonic cultivation. It’s unsafe, thus I have to supervise your actions.”

Wei Wuxian, “Don’t get me wrong teacher, but I don’t trust you either.”

The young man averted his eyes with frustration and spoke again, “Anyway. What are we doing then?”

Lan Qiren shook his head, “I spoke with elders. At this time, no one wants to fight Wen Ruohan. I’m going to... think something. Until then, we also have the matter of the Waterborne Abyss.”

Wei Wuxian lifted his brows, “Waterborne Abyss? Teacher Lan, why don’t we take it down together? I have a way to solve the problem without waiting for years.”

Lan Qiren glared at him, “Absolutely not! I will investigate this matter myself. Don’t include yourself.”

Wei Wuxian rolled his eyes, “Yeah, yeah. Then I’ll return to tainting your best student, how is that?”

Lan Qiren humphed, “You will not!”

Wei Wuxian spoke again, “Teacher, you don’t want me to use resentful energy; you don’t want me to help you with spiritual cultivation either. Then what shall I do?”

Lan Qiren, “Don’t taint Wangji! And also keep an eye at Su She.”

Wei Wuxian bowed, “Right then, I’ll take my leave. Don’t worry about Lan Zhan, Teacher Lan.”

Thus Wei Wuxian left and Lan Qiren started to think about what he could do about the matter of the waterborne abyss.

A few days later, Lan Qiren caught sight of Wei Wuxian running alongside Lan Wangji, trying to make him smile and shouting non-stop: Lan Zhan this, Lan Zhan that. He tried hard to not roll his eyes at that childish behavior. God forbid, this man was twenty years old, and still, had no trouble blending in with the fifteen-year-olds. After Wangji left, he stopped Wei Wuxian. “What are you doing?”

Wei Wuxian asked with a surprised face, “What am I doing?”

Lan Qiren, “Why are you pestering Wangji?”

Wei Wuxian bit his lower lip, “I’m not pestering him. I just want to be friends with him.”

Lan Qiren, “Why?”

Wei Wuxian happily exclaimed, “Isn’t it obvious? He is an upstanding, righteous, and beautiful person. Who wouldn’t want to make friends with him? If he smiled a bit all the sisters would be running after him.”

“...Hmm, maybe that’s a good thing he doesn’t smile. You don’t have to deal with all those ladies Laoshi!”

Lan Qiren grumbled, “Shameless!”

Wei Wuxian, “Hah! That’s what Lan Zhan says, all the time! I really forgot how strict he was even when he was a teenager.”

Lan Qiren couldn’t help himself and asked the question he was wondering ever since Wangji’s return from indoctrination. “So, you really opened Xuanwu’s mouth with your legs

and arms for my nephew?”

Wei Wuxian smiled slightly as if remembering a distant memory, “Yes. He saved my life too! Even though this Lan Zhan is incredibly cute, I miss the Lan Zhan of our time. Even if we were not exactly on good terms, we had lots of memories together. This Lan Zhan, on the other hand, has just met me.”

Lan Qiren opened his mouth to speak and then closed it again. He couldn’t find anything to say. In the end, he only sighed and turned back on his heels to continue his preparation to face the waterborne abyss.

At night, Lan Qiren broke a rule. It was a necessary act because he wouldn’t be able to explain to the elders of his sect that how did he know that there was a waterborne abyss that was sent by QishanWen Clan; nor could he send a search party before people reported incidents. That was the whole point, wasn’t it? To find a solution before people actually died.

He descended tranquilly near Caiyi Town and started to walk towards the lake. Moon was high and the night was silent. Yet someone else suddenly broke the peace of his trip. “Laoshi, Lan Laoshi!”

Lan Qiren, “Wei Wuxian, what are you doing here? I told you to stay back!”

Wei Wuxian grinned cheekily, “I’m night-hunting with you. Don’t worry I won’t use resentful energy but I won’t let you go alone either. Why didn’t you ask for help from Zewu-jun?”

Lan Qiren sighed, “It is of no use. Last time it was my duty to cleanse it either. It will take a long time.”

Wei Wuxian winked at him, “If you wish I can always help with it Laoshi. I have my core too, you know? I can fight with Suibian. Also, night-hunting alone is a dangerous thing. I wouldn’t want Lan Zhan to lose you to a stupid night-hunt.”

Lan Qiren resisted the urge of raising a brow, “You decided to wield Suibian now? You’re not arrogant as your usual self.”

Wei Wuxian smiled again, “Not that I need it, but of course, I enjoy wielding it, I missed her so much!”

Lan Qiren, “Then you should’ve wielded it sooner! Why didn’t you?”

Wei Wuxian swallowed a lump and didn’t answer. After a while, he spoke again. “To tell the truth, I’ve been too arrogant around you; I don’t want to seem more arrogant. Let’s say, I have certain matters which I cannot explain and wish for you to not think too much about it. After all, gossip is forbidden, eh?”

Lan Qiren stroke his beard thoughtfully, “We don’t have to know too much about each other. Let’s just stay silent through this whole thing.”

“...and don’t forget, no resentful energy! Absolutely not!”

Below Wei Wuxian's innocent angel smile laid a devilish grin, "Of course Lan Laoshi, lead the way!"

They found the abyss rather quickly. Although it wasn't as strong as when they had first faced it in their original timeline, it was still pretty powerful. It was certainly not a hunt for a single person. Lan Qiren and Wei Wuxian both stroke the ghouls with their swords and nodded respectfully at each other.

At some point, spirits started to surround Lan Qiren. Wei Wuxian's abilities with resentful energy made spirits stay further away from him, but it didn't apply to Lan Qiren.

When things started to become too forceful in Lan Qiren's front, Wei Wuxian started to slash through the ghouls on the elder man's side. Lan Qiren was too tired at this point, ghouls almost touched him. Worriedly, Wei Wuxian pushed the elder man to fly high away from the abyss. Lan Qiren felt anger rising through his veins, "Wei Wuxian, what are you doing?"

Wei Wuxian calmly replied, "What am I doing? I'm helping you of course!"

"Teacher Lan, the waterborne abyss is not something that could be dealt with two people. You don't seek help from others either. Then just stand here and watch how I'm doing things. I promise I won't do anything harmful!"

Lan Qiren breathed heavily, "Absolutely. Not."

Wei Wuxian stared straight into his eyes. "That is the quickest and most harmless way. You should trust me."

Lan Qiren clenched his teeth and flipped his head backward. "Do. What. You. Wish."

Feeling happy after getting his permission, Wei Wuxian's devilish smile returned to his face. He clapped his hands three times in the air and watched the abyss reach out for him from the lake. Abyss laid on his feet, taking the shape of a tree. Wei Wuxian turned to look at Lan Qiren and clapped his hands one more time. Another piece of the abyss took the shape of a strange-looking statue in front of the Grandmaster, which was weirdly similar to Su She's figure. Lan Qiren humphed, "Unethical!"

Wei Wuxian burst into laughter, "Alright, alright!"

Clapping his hands two times this time, the piece of the abyss in front of Lan Qiren took the shape of a beard. This time Lan Qiren didn't resist rolling his eyes. The both of them quickly slashed through the abyss in front of them until there were only a few ghouls left in the lake.

Lan Qiren tried to hide his shock. If not for Wei Wuxian controlling the abyss then it would take three months for GusuLan to cleanse the area and another to recover the loss of the civilians.

They returned home in silence, still, Lan Qiren couldn't help but notice the smug smile on Wei Wuxian's face. "Too much pride is forbidden." He said.

Wei Wuxian nodded, keeping his smug smile still.

At the gates of GusuLan, Wei Wuxian stopped the grandmaster. “Wait? Are we going to enter through the gate? I thought entering after curfew was forbidden.”

Lan Qiren raised an eyebrow. “Do you care about which way you go in?”

Wei Wuxian pouted, “Lan Zhan can see me if I go through the gate! I’ve been trying really hard to make friends with him!”

Lan Qiren heavily sighed, “Boy. Walk. Before. Me.”

Wei Wuxian scratched his back, “Okay, okay. If I get caught, it’s because of you Laoshi.”

The thing with Lan Wangji, was that he always stayed alert for a certain Young Master from the Jiang Sect. The moment he heard the cheerful laughter, he jumped in front of Lan Qiren and Wei Wuxian from the supervision point he usually stood.

His eyes got widened after he saw who was coming alongside with Wei Wuxian.

He asked, “Uncle?”

## Chapter 3

Lan Qiren stood in front of Wei Wuxian, letting his shadow fall on him. “Wangji.” He greeted back.

Lan Wangji didn’t know what to say, should he ask his uncle about Wei Wuxian’s presence, should he take Wei Wuxian out and punish him or would his uncle already do it?

Lan Qiren smugly smiled, “I was on a night-hunt when I found Young Master Wei. He was insistent to help me. However, he has broken curfew and tried to bribe me with Emperor’s Smile on the way back.” He narrowed his eyes and glared at the innocent-looking boy.

“He shall copy conduct once more and Wangji, you shall supervise him.”

Wei Wuxian couldn’t help but groan, “Laoshi! I can read conduct to you from my mind! Have mercy on this poor disciple!” His eyes were twinkling, his gaze found Lan Wangji’s figure from time to time, “Lan Zhan! It seems like we’re gonna have to spend more time! At least I get to see you, huh?”

Then in a moment, only Lan Qiren realized something: Lan Wangji’s ears were blushing from head to toe! How could Lan Qiren not see this ominous sign from the beginning?

Lan Qiren glared again, “Go back to your dorms.”

Wei Wuxian bowed to both men, “Lan Laoshi.”

“Lan Zhan. Too sad we can’t meet in the moonlight tonight. I’ll make sure that the moon is high next time!”

The boy winked at Lan Wangji and turned on his feet, happily running to his room.

Lan Wangji and Lan Qiren exclaimed at the same time. “Shameless!”

Lan Qiren chose to ignore the blush that swallowed Wangji’s ears as a whole. He now understood why his nephew chose to wear his hair as it is.

Few days passed, Lan Qiren spent his days thinking about Wei Wuxian’s cultivation; Wei Wuxian spent his days speculating on how could they beat Wen Ruohan as, well, two people. In lessons, Lan Qiren liked to push Wei Wuxian harder than each time and Wei Wuxian always answered arrogantly. It looked like there was some kind of a cold war between him and Wei Wuxian. Yet, one day when Lan Qiren passing through a pavilion, he saw his nephew and Wei Wuxian kneeling in front of the discipline paddle waiting for their punishment. *Oh, he forgot that. That Wei Wuxian couldn’t help himself, could he?*

He made a sign to the disciples who were about to punish them and approached Wei Wuxian and Lan Wangji. When he got close to Wei Wuxian, he couldn’t help but widen his eyes with

shock. The child's back was covered with old and new scars on top of each other, it hurt Lan Qiren's eye and he felt a pang in his chest.

Wei Wuxian turned back to him, pouting. "Teacher Lan, your nephew is too cruel!"

Lan Qiren asked, forcefully taking his gaze over Wei Wuxian's back, "What did you do this time?"

Wei Wuxian, "Well, I've missed drinking good wine, eh!"

Lan Qiren ignored him, "What are those scars on your back? When did they happen?"

Wei Wuxian looked a bit surprised, "Oh, I forgot about them. It's nothing, some of them are old; some of them are new. Some of them are from the time before developing my core, so they sort of remained."

Lan Qiren, "It looks like, it had been made with a whip."

He only noticed what he said after the words left his mouth. Rumors, they've all heard them before.

Wei Wuxian smiled, "I'm such an unruly child, that's it."

Lan Qiren nodded and calmly said with a distant thoughtful gaze, "Take your punishment then." Yet, he couldn't help but clench his fists.

He looked at Wangji and stroke his beard with sympathy. "Wangji."

"Uncle."

It was weird for Lan Qiren to receive the news of his top disciple's punishment this relaxedly. Yet, who could have known that the man lived it all before, therefore expected everything from Wei Wuxian and knew that the boy would drag Wangji with him if Lan Qiren didn't interfere and take his top disciple away? He had mixed feelings about Wei Wuxian therefore he didn't do anything decisive yet either.

After his punishment, Lan Qiren summoned Wei Wuxian to his study. A decision was made.

Lan Qiren took a long breath and gazed at the boy. "I'll let you use it as long as you have a clear conscience."

Wei Wuxian, "Really?"

Lan Qiren, "Don't make me repeat. Now, listen to what I've planned."

From Lan Qiren's study Wei Wuxian's laughter echoed, "Lan Laoshi, I have my plans too!"

They started to leave at night and return at dawn, mere seconds after the curfew was lifted. One by one they visited Wen Clan's branch sects to collect information in disguise.

One day, Wei Wuxian wanted to visit especially DafanWen. Lan Qiren didn't know why until he saw Wei Wuxian's eyes. His mouth was a thin line and his eyes searched everyone. Occasionally he said, "Huh, this one person wasn't with us." "This child?! I've never seen her."

The Wen refugees Wei Wuxian took were elderly people with low cultivation who showed their ages. Wei Wuxian beamed when he saw Uncle Four and Uncle Six. Despite being close to the age of Lan Qiren, these men had strength nowhere near as Lan Qiren's.

Even if they were strong, according to Wei Wuxian, these people were free to roam alone until the Jin Sect took hold of them and used them as baits.

Lan Qiren narrowed his eyes, "Why didn't you tell it then?"

Wei Wuxian, "What?"

Lan Qiren, "That you protected civilians, why didn't you tell it? Did you really have a child with you?"

Wei Wuxian had a tired smile on his lips, "For me to leave Yiling is very dangerous, I can't let the Wens stay alone for too long."

He added after a moment.

"When I first went to Koi Tower I had already said that Wen Ning's branch was innocent yet people ignored it, didn't they? For me to be heard alone is impossible."

Lan Qiren, "Then why don't your shidi speak for you, wasn't he, your sect leader at that time?"

Wei Wuxian, "Let's say our opinions on the subject differ."

The young man dropped the subject at that and walked towards a shy, timid boy called Wen Ning. He cried out, "Wen Ning is so cute, I can't believe it!" He outwardly cooed over the boy.

After befriending Wen Ning, seeking a meeting with his sister, the famous Wen Qing wasn't as hard as Lan Qiren thought it would be.

Wen Qing was a proud woman with a heart of steel. Wei Wuxian wanted to keep it that way; that Wen Qing wouldn't have to stay on the streets as he found her at that time, tired and shaking, wondering whether her brother is dead or not.

Their repeated trips to Qishan blossomed at last when Wen Qing was convinced that they came from the future, responding to Wei Wuxian's empathy. Discussing the matters while trying to not seem suspicious, they've decided neither Wen Xu nor Wen Chao could be trusted with all the power and wealth of QishanWen.



Wei Wuxian asked her, “Wen Qing, would you do anything for your family?”

Wen Qing averted her gaze, “I’ll do what I can to save them.”

Wei Wuxian, “Then, what about becoming a sect leader?”

Wen Qing, “What? I...”

Wei Wuxian, “You’d make an amazing leader, I know it. You know it too. QishanWen would flourish with your medics, you could finally lead people to do good. What do you think?”

Wen Qing, “The light has an amazing authority over his officers. They’re all scared of him, I don’t know if they would accept it.”

Wei Wuxian, “Don’t you have supporters too? Look now...”

This way, they started to plan to frame Wen Ruohan and his sons, not that it was hard to find cruelty with them. A correspondence started between Nie Mingjue and Wen Qing. Nie Mingjue’s father had died unfortunately because of Wen Ruohan’s arrogance, rumors said, thus he was inwardly opposed to the QishanWen Sect; but because the other three big clans didn’t want to clash with Wen Ruohan, he couldn’t do anything about his father. Wen Qing and Nie Mingjue made a deal about the afterward of Wen Qing’s becoming sect leader. Thus an alliance was made.

At the same time, in Cloud Recesses Wei Wuxian slumped everywhere; sleeping at every corner he could find. Sneaking out at night was a tiresome thing. As a teacher, Lan Qiren kept a strict schedule to not fall asleep in his class; he took naps privately in the evenings. If sometimes Wei Wuxian joined him from the outside, who could know anything?

One time after Wei Wuxian yawned in front of the Library Pavilion, inwardly cursing about why Lan Qiren still made him copy punishments, Lan Wangji looked at him worriedly even Wei Wuxian noticed the expression. “Lan Zhan, you act like you don’t like me, but you’re secretly worried about me, aren’t you? You’re always like this! We’re so close already.”

Lan Wangji, “We are not.”

Wei Wuxian, “Yes, yes tell me this again in five years.”

Lan Wangji, “Sleeping in the middle of the day, impudent.”

Wei Wuxian, “Why? Didn’t you enjoy watching my beautiful face hm?”

Lan Wangji glared at him, “Shameless!”

Wei Wuxian laughed out loud, “I know, I know! I’m the most shameless! Ah, things never really change huh.” Thus, he walked away to find a more comfortable place to sleep in.

Watching the whole exchange, Lan Qiren approached his nephew from behind. The usual blush after speaking to Wei Wuxian still lingered on his earlobes. Lan Qiren so casually asked, “Wangji, what do you think about Wei Ying?”

Lan Wangji replied after considering the question. "He is not appropriate."

Lan Qiren stroked his beard and calmly answered, "Huh? I think he would make an exceptional cultivation partner for you."

The old man walked away before his nephew could answer. He had just noticed, he'd missed this teenager.

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They soon started to take action. Rumors were spread along in Qishan that Sect Leader Wen had crossed his line and aimed for civilians. A young cultivator had rescued innocent people from the Wen attackers. Wei Wuxian and Lan Qiren went to different places around Qishan and with the power of the dead, they soon made up those little scenes. Dead looked like they were attacking people, where in reality they were only souls that expected to be put to rest. They wore Wen Clan's clothes which were given by Wen Qing, thus regular people and some cultivators thought them to be Wen disciples.

Wen Qing had also added to Wen Ruohan's usual medicine, a herb that would distort a person's qi; thus Wen Ruohan was vicious than ever, his temperament was even more impossible to predict. The elders of the clan were restless about Wen Ruohan, yet no one dared say anything. Wen Xu was as vicious as his father while Wen Chao had his added stupidity on top of his cruelty and disrespect.

Some elders started to turn towards the most reasonable choice of heir, Wen Qing.

Of course, Wen Ruohan noticed that.

When the Sect Leader summoned Wen Qing to his chambers, Wen Qing walked towards him with a decision shining through her eyes. Wen Ruohan teased her, blamed her, and demanded his subordinates to take her into his torture rooms. Two men held Wen Qing from her two arms to drag her. Wen Qing took out a needle from her dress and hurriedly stabbed the two men, making them armless and killing them from their acupuncture points, in mere seconds. Not that it went unnoticed. Wen Ruohan immediately took out his sword and started to laugh. His sword flew through the air, ready to pierce the young woman.

Yet, something moved inside the room. Something dead. The dead Wen guards stood up, making a shield around Wen Qing. Wen Ruohan couldn't understand what was happening. He could take down a few corpses, was that it?

At the same time, the other corpses rushed through the room. Wen Xu and Wen Chao approached Wen Ruohan with amazing amounts of viciousness. These boys had always felt scared when they were with their father, even in childhood. All their lives, they lived as resentful Young Masters. The hatred they felt towards the earth in their lives, turned into the hatred of their father after death.

Fierce corpses, the close circle of Wen Ruohan's guards all circled the room. People whose corpses were left in the torture room went in too. Wen Qing was in the middle of them all. Her blood resembled Wen Ruohan's, so it was dangerous for her to stay. She put up a quick

cleansing array around herself. The resentment was all towards Wen Ruohan now, but who could know what would happen next until Wei Wuxian came in?

Wen Ruohan was a powerful cultivator. It was impossible to defeat him with swords, yet he was a mortal. Facing dozens of vicious corpses that all resented him deeply, his stance soon gave in.

He was stabbed repeatedly until the sound of a shrill flute was heard. The corpses fell on the floor.

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They told the world that Wen Ruohan had gone mad and tried to kill his own niece. Guards were found of Maiden Wen, so they stood in front of her. On the brink of Qi deviation, Wen Ruohan got so mad, he had started to attack his guards too. He had died just like Nie Mingjue's father, with Qi deviation. Unlike him, he couldn't escape the fate of killing his sons.

Wen Qing became the new sect leader of the QishanWen. Sects took a deep breath when her title was announced.

After the events, Wei Wuxian told Lan Qiren, "How bad. For a moment, in that room, I thought the corpses would shred him. That would be the worst way to die."

He continued after a while. "Things I did, I thought I wouldn't have to cause these kinds of things after the Sunshot Campaign. How untrue a guess."

Faces expressionless, they went back to Cloud Recesses as if nothing had happened. As if they didn't just beat an overpowered sect leader overnight.

Lan Qiren wrote a few notes to himself of this timeline. They'd guessed that their consciousness had changed places and this timeline had differed from theirs the moment the exchange had been done.

Lan Qiren looked at Wei Wuxian in front of a pavilion in Cloud Recesses. The boy was smiling again, yet it was obvious for Lan Qiren who had spent months with him that his smile was restrained. He approached him to lift his moods in the only way he could think of.

Lan Qiren, "When the original Wei Wuxian returns to this body, what do you think he'll do after seeing Wangji having long conversations with you?"

Wei Wuxian grinned, "He better kowtows me."

Lan Qiren couldn't help himself, "When we return, I will talk to Wangji."

Wei Wuxian raised an eyebrow, "What do you mean Laoshi?"

Lan Qiren, "I'm going to take you to my nephew."

Wei Wuxian opened his mouth wide with shock, “What?! You mean Lan Wangji, your nephew, Second Jade of Gusu, you’re gonna do me what?!”

Lan Qiren scowled, “Don’t say you don’t like my nephew! You are head over heels for him.”

Wei Wuxian sputtered, “...I...wha...what?”

He awkwardly added and brushed a wild hair behind his ear, “Lan Zhan doesn’t even like me. Huh.”

Lan Qiren rolled his eyes, “Don’t try to make me say it.”

Wei Wuxian, “Huh? What?”

Lan Qiren, “He obviously likes you in both times. There.”

Wei Wuxian, “..He likes me?...I thought he hated me.”

Lan Qiren, “Don’t ever think like that.”

Lan Qiren added, “Wei Wuxian, even if you don’t want to marry into our clan you can count on GusuLan to protect those who need. I won’t be blinking an eye at this matter. You are welcome in Cloud Recesses anytime.”

Wei Wuxian’s face was all red. He bowed, filled with respect, “Laoshi, this one is very grateful. This student thanks you.”

He stood up again, “But my body’s conditions are not suitable for Lan Zhan. I can’t cultivate with him. My body from our timeline lacks spiritual cultivation. I... I don’t have a core.”

Lan Qiren sighed with surprise. “It is Lan Wangji’s decision. I will notify him of your condition and regardless of anything you shall come to Cloud Recesses.”

Wei Wuxian was a bright teen with amazing potential in cultivation, to hear that he wouldn’t be able to cultivate anymore Lan Qiren felt his heart squeeze. He asked after a moment, “What happened to it?”

Wei Wuxian sighed, “That’s a long story. I’ll tell Laoshi once we’re back, how about it?”

Wei Wuxian, “Wait, does that mean you want me to call you uncle?”

Lan Qiren, “...”

That night they both went into their chambers and entered a deep slumber. When they woke up, one of them found himself in his cave again and the other found himself in the newly built Cloud Recesses. Lan Qiren suddenly remembered, before going to sleep when he found that incense, he had mumbled something. *‘I wish I’d had put that child into discipline before he fell onto the easy trap of demonic cultivation.’* He had said.

The memories of their counterparts rushed through their minds, Wen Remnants had to deal with an excited teenager Wei Wuxian for months. Wen Ning had protected the wards while teenage Wei Ying tried to direct the resentful energy according to the original demonic cultivator's notes to keep up with protection. Apart from occasional emotional breakdowns, nothing serious had happened.

Lan Qiren's counterpart was quite good at playing his part. Why he didn't tell anyone that he had time-traveled, Lan Qiren could guess. Although he couldn't help but notice the relaxed gazes of his nephews when he came back.

The other Lan Qiren read his older counterpart's notes with dread even after getting his memories, the phrase, *Wei Wuxian would make an exceptional cultivation partner for Wangji*, didn't leave his mind for months and when it finally did, Lan Wangji came and reminded him of that. with Wei Wuxian in tow.

In another universe, when elder Lan Qiren asked his nephew, "Wangji, what do you say? I think Wei Ying would make an exceptional cultivation partner for you."

Lan Wangji had choked from his food.

A marriage proposal was sent to Burial Mounds. The pair, Wei Wuxian and Lan Wangji, grew up together into fine adults, finally starting to learn to understand each other and developing themselves.

If Lan Qiren got the perfect Lan A-Yuan at the end, who could say anything to that?

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